

Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists
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LICENSES REVOKED

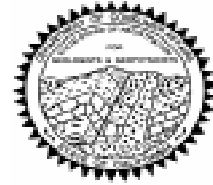
The Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists revoked Warren Lester Sherling's Registered Geologist License No. 3777 and Certified Engineering Geologist License No. 1182 for negligence and incompetence, effective February 7, 2000. The Board adopted the proposed decision of an Administrative Law Judge. The disciplinary action was based on a report Sherling prepared for a residential property in Lytle Creek in San Bernardino County. Sherling demonstrated negligence and incompetence when he failed to identify the project site within a state-designated Earthquake Fault Zone.

Sherling also failed to meet the "standards of care" for Registered Geologists and Certified Engineering Geologists in Southern California by using an outdated earthquake fault map; not accurately locating

the site on the earthquake fault map he did use; failing to include the Earthquake Fault Zone Map containing the project site and a geologic cross-section across the site; not disclosing the limitations of his fault hazard analysis; and assuming that alluvium underlying the site would lessen, rather than increase ground motion during a seismic event.

The Administrative Law Judge concluded in the written decision, "The revocation of the respondent's licenses is the only disciplinary measure which will serve to protect the public." In addition to his license revocation, Sherling was ordered to reimburse the Board \$8,525 for costs of investigation and enforcement.

To file a complaint against or to check the license status of a Registered Geologist or Registered Geophysicist, call the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists at (916) 263-2113 or see the Board's website.



RGP EXAM NOW ONCE A YEAR

At its December 3, 1999, meeting, the Board voted unanimously to cancel the fall 2000, Registered Geophysicist examination and adopted a policy to administer the examination once a year beginning March 2000.

For more information about any examination administered by the Board, please call the examination unit or visit the Board's website.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The cover photographs in the Summer and Winter 1999, editions of *California Geologists and Geophysicists* were generously provided by John A. Karachewski. To publish or order John's photographs, please visit his website at:

www.geoscapesphotography.com.

THE BOARD ON THE WEB

Visit the Board's website at **www.dca.ca.gov/geology** for current information about the Board and its activities, examination applications, publications, enforcement activities and a user-friendly directory of licensees.

THE CENSUS

The U.S. Constitution requires the Census Bureau to count each person in the United States every ten years. In mid-March, official census questionnaires will be mailed to all households. Census information is 100% confidential. The Census Bureau is strictly prohibited from sharing information with **any** other individual or organization, public or private. For more information, call the California Complete Count Campaign at (323) 965-2943 (Los Angeles) or (916) 323-3301 (Sacramento) or visit California's web site at www.census.ca.gov and the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov. California communities could lose over \$3 billion in federal tax revenue during the next decade if Californians do not respond! Please return your census questionnaire promptly. It's your future. Don't leave it blank.

EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING

Twenty-one licensees representing different areas of practice in geology and geophysics attended the Board's expert witness testimony training, presented by UC Riverside Extension, on January 27 and 28, 2000. Sharon Jasek Reid, Board President and Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer greeted the participants in the training, the first of it's kind for the Board. Dr. Mikki Vohryzek, professor of Criminal Justice, California State University, Sacramento; Jeff Whamond, task force agent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Susan Ruff, Deputy Attorney General; Doug Whaley, Deputy District Attorney with Sacramento County; and attorney Joe Barbara instructed the participants in: an overview of the administrative hearing process, elements of an effective technical expert review, qualifying as an expert and courtroom etiquette. In addition, the participants conducted a mock trial that allowed each licensee an opportunity to testify about evidence and be cross-examined by a "defense attorney." The training was a learning experience for licensees who serve as technical expert witnesses for the enforcement program.

THANK YOU CEG'S

On December 12, 1999, the Board sent 1,231 surveys to all CEG's residing in California to identify the tasks that Certified Engineering Geologists perform on the job and the knowledge they need to perform the tasks. The Board received 643 responses by December 31, 1999. It will use the results of this task analysis to update the Certified Engineering Geology examination program to reflect current practice. The Board thanks all who returned the survey by the December 31, 1999, deadline. Their participation was essential to the success of the occupational analysis and their contributions ensure that future Certified Engineering Geologists are qualified to practice.

WHERE ARE YOU?



The answer to the Winter 1999, Newsletter, "Where Are You" is:

THE LOST COAST

The Northern California coast between Rockport and Pt. Gorda where Highway 1 diverges from the coastline.